

Lake of the Woods District Hospital
Press Release

April 9, 2012

The Lake of the Woods District Hospital is pleased to announce that effective April 22, 2012, the hospital and all of its properties will become smoke-free, with the exception of one designated smoking site at each of its four facilities.

Although the Smoke Free Ontario Act regulates a 9 meter no smoking by-law around all entrances to buildings, the patients, staff and visitors of the LWDH have expressed concerns that they are being exposed to second hand smoke upon entering the hospital. The hospital Administration therefore launched a Tobacco Usage Review Group which has identified two different priorities that will have an impact on patients, staff and visitors that use tobacco.

Firstly, the Review Group is developing smoking cessation programs for in-patients and staff. Participating with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine in a study for in-patients, the LWDH will be identifying tobacco users on admission and offering adjunctive smoking cessation aids throughout their stay. Staff members who use tobacco will have access to the same resources to assist them to quit.

Secondly, the Review Group is developing a two phase approach to eliminate tobacco use and second hand smoke at the LWDH. The first phase will be implementing smoke free facilities with the exception of a designated smoking site where staff, visitors and patients may use tobacco. These sites will be accessible, well lit, safe and far enough away from all entrances to prevent second hand smoke exposure to non-smokers. As the smoking cessation program becomes more developed, the second phase will be the complete elimination of all smoking on all LWDH property. The implementation date for Phase 1 (one designated smoking site per building) is Sunday, April 22, 2012, Earth Day. The implementation date for Phase 2 is yet to be determined.